

Quellenangabe: A&O Hostels Pressemitteilung, July 2003, Englisch

## **A&O HOSTELS –It’s not a hostel, it’s a state of mind**

**Berlin, July 2003** – On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 200 the first A&O HOSTEL was opened in Berlin-Friedrichshain. Doing so manager Oliver Winter paved the way for the company that today also comprises the A&O HOSTEL at Berlin Zoologischer Garten station, and another house in Berlin-Mitte that is currently under construction. “The success we experienced in Friedrichshain led us to proceed with our concept,” explains Oliver Winter. Providing 1.200 beds in Berlin, A&O HOSTELS are leading the market in Berlin.

Offering dormitories as well as doubles and singles A&O HOSTELS are dedicated to offer hotel service at a fair price. Among the services available range the 24-hour reception with multilingual staff, as well as the recreational facilities table football, pool billiard and table tennis that are bound to convince those who don’t want to miss hotel comfort over reasonable rates. Unlike most youth hostels in Germany guests do not have to show proof of membership to check in. Open to everyone, A&O HOSTELS provide an alternative way of travelling in times of economic hardship.

The laid-back, international atmosphere is the key feature of A&O HOSTELS. Community space forms the core of the hostels and generates the unique charm of the A&O HOSTELS. International exchange and dialogue is inevitable: Travellers can discuss their experiences and recommend the numerous sights or shopping possibilities to each other. Exhausted city-hoppers can also relax watching cable TV in the common rooms.

As a meeting point and source of information, the lobbies offer valuable information on destinations in and around Berlin. Tickets for the most important event and sights in Berlin can be purchased at the reception. Guests can catch up on their backpacker friends all over the world at the internet terminals located in the lobby.

The rooms are furnished according to the primary needs of the guests. Travellers can decide whether they want to use the hostel’s bedding or their own, or if they want to enjoy the breakfast buffet. In the A&O HOSTEL in Berlin-Friedrichshain backpackers can make use of a kitchen to prepare their own meals.

Located centrally groups and individual travellers have easy access to the main attractions of Berlin. With hostels in Friedrichshain, Mitte and Zoo a visit to Berlin’s nightlife becomes compulsory.

With the acquisition of Arena Hostel in Prague Holosovice in march this year, A&O HOSTELS managed to open their first branch outside of Germany.